

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4.00PM 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012 AT COUNCIL

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2012, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Hartley Building Meeting Room, Lithgow City Council 180 Mort Street
<b>Meeting Purpose:</b>	Lithgow Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
<b>Chair:</b>	Trish Kidd
<b>Guest Speakers:</b>	Nil
<b>Present:</b>	Councilor Neville Castle, Helen Drewe, Sue Graves, Trish Kidd (Chair), Ian Milliss, Peter Evans, Thomas Ebersoll, Andrew Muir, Peta Lette, Samantha Champion (Secretary)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councilor Col Hunter, Fiona Joy, Jeff Thurlow
<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes 8th February 2012:</b>	The minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting of 8th February 2012 and were formally ratified at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 23 April 2012.
<b>Moved:</b> Neville Castle	<b>Seconded:</b> Sue Graves

## ITEM 1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arose from the minutes of 8th February 2012.

## ITEM 2 FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF LITHGOW ENVIRONMENT GROUP'S NEW SECOND NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE

Thomas Ebersoll provided EAC with correspondence formally nominating Lithgow Environment Group's second nominated representative, Dr Richard Stiles. Dr Stiles will replace Karen McLaughlin. Sue Graves also provided information that Kathleen Compton will be replacing George Quinell as Lithgow Tidy Towns' second nominated representative.

### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** the Committee accepts and informs Council of the new nominated representatives on the Environmental Advisory Committee.

## ITEM 3 TRACKING HISTORIC ITEMS TEMPLATE

Date	Item No.	Issue	Recommended Action	LEAC Response

Trish provided an example of a 'Tracking Historic Items' template which previously formed part of the Committee's minutes. It is ideal for quick referencing and will be reinstated as the second agenda item for each meeting, following on from Business Arising from the Minutes. Trish is to provide the minutes which contains the last 'Tracking Historic Items' table to Sam for the Committee's review at the next meeting.

#### **ITEM 4 PROPOSAL BY LITHGOW ENVIRONMENT GROUP FOR A TREE PLANTING OF THE RIPARIAN ZONE OF FARMERS CREEK**

Thomas addressed the Environmental Advisory Committee about the proposal by Lithgow Environment Group for a tree planting of the riparian zone of Farmers Creek and tabled a letter sent to Council on 29 February 2012.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** the Committee provide its in principle support to the proposal, pending concurrence with the Farmers Creek Concept Plan.

#### **ITEM 5 HASSANS WALLS - OF CONCERN IS THE CURRENT SPATE OF TREE VANDALISM PRESUMABLY AT NIGHT. SURVEILLANCE?**

Helen tabled several photographs taken at Hassans Walls, showing tree vandalism and the Committee held a discussion on prevention of this occurring. Suggestions included additional ranger and police patrols and signage. She also advised that following the February meeting discussion on the downhill bike tracks on Hassans Walls Reserve, she researched on the internet and found that the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club is advertising 13 mountain bike trails on its website. This is contrary from the one approved track that Council is aware is currently operating. Helen also provided photographs of dead Teatree at Londonderry Reserve and is concerned about the use of recycled bitumen.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

#### **THAT**

1. The Committee request Council investigate the possibility of additional monitoring and spot checks at Hassans Walls by Rangers and Police for vandalism and litter and that additional penalty signage be installed for dumping and vandalism.
2. Council make representations to the Central West Mountain Bike Club in terms of what is advertised on their website.
3. Enquiries be made with the appropriate Council officer regarding the use of recycled bitumen in environmentally sensitive areas.

#### **ITEM 6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Peta provided the Committee with information on Community Environment Network Inc who will be guest speaking at the next Committee meeting in June. The Community Environment Network was formed in 1997 as an over arching body to support individuals and groups in Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford who are working for the environment. Membership of the CEN is open to both individuals and other groups across the region. CEN is a community based non-profit organisation that meets bi-monthly. The CEN employs a number of part time staff however; most activities are carried out by volunteers.
2. Thomas tabled correspondence on behalf of the Lithgow Environment Group relating to Long Wall Mining under Carne Creek and the Pine Dale Extension. The Committee noted the Lithgow Environment Group's submission and concerns.
3. The Committee offered its congratulations to Council on the Draft Flora & Fauna Survey of Hassans Walls Lookout Area.

#### **ITEM 7 CLOSE OF MEETING**

MEETING CLOSED 6.00pm

Next meeting date - 20th June 2012 at 4.00pm